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Communist China - Italy - Canada: Peking's re-evaluation of the Taiwan issue may affect the recognition talks.

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COMMUNIST CHINA - ITALY - CANADA: PEKING IS RE-EVALUATING--AND PERHAPS STIFFENING--ITS APPROACH ON THE TROUBLESOME TAIWAN ISSUE IN ITS RECOGNITION TALKS WITH ITALY AND CANADA.

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] A CHINESE SPOKESMAN TOLD [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] LAST MONTH THAT BECAUSE OF A REVIEW OF THE RECOGNITION TALKS, THE CHINESE WERE NOT YET ABLE TO RESPOND [REDACTED] ON THE ISSUE. HE PROMISED TO CONTACT [REDACTED] AS SOON AS HE RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM PEKING. ALTHOUGH THE OFFICIAL HINTED THAT A COMPROMISE MAY STILL BE WORKED OUT, HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE CHINESE WERE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY ROME AND OTTAWA. HE ADDED THAT HE "PERSONALLY" BELIEVED THE "IDEAL SOLUTION" WOULD BE FOR CANADA AND ITALY TO ENDORSE FULLY PEKING'S ORIGINAL DEMAND FOR EXPLICIT RECOGNITION OF CHINA'S CLAIM TO TAIWAN.

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THE OFFICIAL'S REMARKS CONTRAST WITH THE CHINESE APPROACH LAST MARCH. AT THAT TIME, PEKING INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE WILLING TO LEAVE AMBIGUOUS OTTAWA'S AND ROME'S POSITION ON TAIWAN'S STATUS. THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR IN STOCKHOLM EVEN WENT SO FAR AS TO TELL THE [REDACTED] THAT DIRECT RECOGNITION OF CHINA'S CLAIM TO SOVEREIGNTY OVER TAIWAN WOULD BE UNNECESSARY. ALTHOUGH IT IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER PEKING'S CURRENT RE-EVALUATION PRESAGES A HARDENING OF THE CHINESE POSITION, PEKING IS CLEARLY NOW UNWILLING TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSIONS ON THE BASIS OF THE FLEXIBLE APPROACH IT DEMONSTRATED LAST SPRING.

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